

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

STOPPING IRANIAN TERRORISM

HON. NEWT GINGRICH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 1996

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to share the following editorial from the August 7, 1996, Philadelphia Inquirer, by Trudy Rubin on "Stopping Iranian Terrorism."

As this article points out, the current regime in Iran is dangerous and actively working against the principles of freedom, democracy, and human rights. Iran's actions should worry not only all Americans but our friends and allies around the world as well. The Iran Oil Sanctions Act of 1996 which we passed this summer will help to increase the pressure on the dictatorship in Iran.

As Charles Krauthammer recently noted, in President Clinton's attempts to mobilize the United States against terrorism, "the rhetoric far outran the real measures proposed." Mr. Krauthammer goes on to recognize that what is lacking is deterrence. "All this effort with wiretapping, bomb-sniffing, intelligence-sharing is aimed at reducing the terrorists' ability to carry out their attacks. What we are not doing is diminishing their will to carry out attacks." I strongly agree with him that we should be committed to a sustained and unrelenting effort to destroy those who are responsible for supporting, promoting, and carrying out terrorist acts.

Finally, President Clinton and his administration failed to lay the groundwork with our allies by building the case against Iran. At the recent world summit on terrorism in Paris, the administration did not even raise the issue of Iran. I certainly hope that President Clinton will take note of Iran's actions and vigorously pursue the steps necessary to safeguard our Nation against terrorists.

European leaders love to label Americans naive for viewing the world in terms of good and evil.

They sneered when Ronald Reagan termed the Soviet Union an "evil empire" (he was right). They opposed U.S. moves to quarantine Saddam Hussein before 1990 (he was evil).

And now the European Union is fiercely resisting America's call to isolate Iran as a state sponsor of terrorism. In righteous tones, the French and Germans urge America to hold a "constructive dialogue" with Tehran's mullahs.

But how can you conduct a "constructive" dialogue with a country that carries on a foreign policy that flouts all civilized rules?

The Europeans may insist on painting Iran's behavior in gray tones—attributing it to ongoing political struggles between pragmatists and radicals—but the facts present themselves in black and white.

While U.S. officials haven't found any direct Iranian link to the bombing of U.S. servicemen in Saudi Arabia or the TWA explosion, they are investigating several disturbing leads:

Iran has a network of 11 terrorist training camps inside its borders, according to recent

news reports citing U.S. intelligence sources. The camps teach skills such as bomb making to trainees from around the Islamic world, including Egyptians, Palestinians and Saudis. Iran's clerical rulers oppose Mideast governments that support the peace process with Israel, and exhort Muslims to replace them with radical Islamist regimes. They also call for Islamists to drive U.S. troops out of Saudi Arabia.

Secretary of Defense William Perry has said the bomb that killed 19 U.S. servicemen in Dhahran was so sophisticated that the bombers must have had "an international connection." (But Perry backed off an earlier statement that Iran was "possibly" responsible.) One line of speculation: Iran might have smuggled explosives into Saudi Arabia earlier this year hidden in a shipment of computers headed to an international trade fair.

Only a few days before the explosion in Dhahran, a secret terrorism summit was held in Tehran, according to the National Council of Resistance of Iran, the most active Iranian exile group. The meeting gathered heads of Iranian intelligence agencies along with leaders of radical Mideast Islamists to discuss attacks against U.S. targets.

Iran has perfected a new kind of weapon—a transportable long-range, time-delayed mortar—for use abroad in terrorist operations. The new mortar threat is one reason U.S. troops are being moved to remote base in Saudi Arabia. Iranian dissidents say Tehran has manufactured 20 of these mortars; one was discovered last March hidden in a cargo of pickled cucumbers on an Iranian freighter docked in Antwerp. Possible European targets; Israeli diplomats or Iranian dissidents.

A Lebanese terrorist trained by Iranian revolutionary guards flew into Israel on April 4 with high-powered plastic explosives hidden in a carry-on bag. Fortunately, he only blew off his own legs and an arm in a Jerusalem hotel room while assembling a bomb. But if he could smuggle plastique onto Swissair in Zurich undetected, maybe someone did the same on TWA Flight 800. FBI agents are investigating.

Had enough? No? Well, on July 17, a Thai court sentenced an Iranian man to death for conspiring to set off a bomb in Bangkok aimed at the Israeli Embassy.

And Iranian agents have been busily hunting down Iranian dissidents in exile; they've killed 11 already in 1996. The latest victim, a former government minister under the shah, was shot twice in the head at his home in Paris. German police arrested a high-ranking Iranian intelligence agent in connection with the killing.

But none of this is convincing enough for the Europeans, especially the French and the Germans. They still insist on coloring Iranian leaders gray.

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's chief intelligence adviser has become downright chummy with Iran's head of intelligence, Ali Fallahian, even though a German court charged Fallahian with organizing the 1992 assassination of four Iranian Kurds in Berlin.

I have tried to fathom this myopia. I know the Germans once were Iran's biggest trading partner, and resent U.S. pressure to give up lucrative contracts. I know the French oil company Total, S.A. has huge sums invested in Iranian oil development.

And I understand European resentment at new U.S. sanctions against foreign firms, including those from allied nations, that invest big in Iranian energy. Imposing trade sanctions on your friends is a funny way to punish your enemies.

But what's the Clinton administration to do if friends refuse to call a common enemy by its rightful name?

Iran is not an enemy because it has an Islamic government, or because it once held U.S. diplomats hostage. Tehran's sin lies not in its theology, but in its behavior today. A country that murders its enemies abroad removes itself from the community of nations.

I know the Europeans can find excuses for Iranian behavior: We have to understand Iranian psychology . . . the Iranians feel threatened by an America perceived as hostile . . . Washington has refused to extend a hand. I remember when the same excuses were made for Saddam Hussein.

I feel sorry for all the Iranian technocrats who want to get on with building their country. But an Iran with its own violent foreign agenda is a threat to everyone, not just America. What if such a regime gets nuclear weapons?

The only way to change Iran's behavior is for Western allies to stand together, setting out clear guidelines for Tehran, or else. If Europeans pretend otherwise, they are naive.

JUST THE FACTS: THE CONTINUING SHAME OF THE AMERICAN HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 1996

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, there was a lot of crowing at the Republican National Convention about the defeat of the effort in the 103d Congress to obtain health insurance for every American. Republicans talked a lot about letting the free market take care of the health insurance problem and how it was good that a Government solution had been rejected.

Never mind the fact that the number of uninsured Americans, especially children, is rising about 1 million per year. Never mind the fact that almost all the other major industrialized nations of the world provide high quality health care to almost all their citizens yet have health inflation lower than ours. Following are the latest available figures from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

The facts speak for themselves—and they should shame all of us.

SHARE OF POPULATION COVERED BY PUBLIC (GOVERNMENT) HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEME (COMPARABLE FIGURES FOR PRIVATE INSURANCE SCHEMES NOT AVAILABLE)

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
Australia	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Austria	99.0	99.0	99.0	99.0	99.0
Belgium	99.0	99.0	99.0	99.0	99.0
Canada	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Czech Republic	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Denmark	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Finland	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

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